WHAT DO HONEY BEES NEED?

- Food, in the form of abundant floral nectar and pollen.
- Access to fresh water.
- Protection from harmful chemicals.

TRAITS OF A GOOD APIARY SITE

- Enough flat, open space for the placement of 24 to 32 hives or hive pallets spaced 5 to 8 feet apart.
- Easy access for trucks moving bee hives, including small flatbeds to semi tractor trailers depending upon the beekeeping operation.
- If on slope, place on upper end of hill for better ventilation– not exposed to winter winds, not where damp air collects.
- At least 2 miles from other apiaries to prevent hive robbing and the spread of pests and diseases.
- Close to fresh, clean water.

For additional information, please visit...

Search USDA sites with keywords: bees, pollinators, or insects

- *www.usda.gov*
- *www.usda.nrcs.gov*
- *www.usda.fsa.gov*

Other resources sites:

- *www.xerces.org*
- *www.beelab.umn.edu*

honey bee... HABITAT

Sept 2015

USDA
United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

2014 Farm Bill

NRCS field office staff and partners, landowners, and beekeepers can work together to create a landscape that supports honey bees and other pollinators!

Honey Bee Habitat, Beekeeping and USDA Farm Bill Conservation Programs - *Helping landowners collaborate with beekeepers to support honey bee apiaries.*

Honey bees are the most commonly used crop pollinator, and they are critical for the diversity of our food supply. Yet beekeepers still lose an unsustainable percentage of their hives every winter. Farmers, beekeepers, and USDA conservation staff can work together to help find good places for hives to rest and revitalize by boosting their nutrition and honey supplies after a busy season pollinating our nation's crops.

WHAT LANDOWNERS CAN DO?

- Use cover crops and range plantings to support bees by seeding flowering plants in addition to grasses.
- Consider hosting apiary sites for beekeepers.
- Plant bee forage that has a different bloom period from your flowering crops.
- Know the locations of nearby apiaries and communicate with local beekeepers about the timing of pesticide applications.

WHAT USDA CONSERVATION STAFF CAN DO?

- Provide technical assistance on honey bee habitat, needs, and threats to interested parties.
- Provide outreach and education to landowners on the threats facing honey bees and other pollinators.
- Publicize opportunities to create bee habitat with conservation programs.
- Ensure landowners know that they are allowed to host apiaries on lands enrolled in conservation programs like the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

WHAT BEEKEEPERS CAN DO?

- Talk with your apiary hosts about the opportunities available from the USDA to get help creating bee habitat or planting forage for bees.
- Register hive locations (*in states with apiary programs).*
- Locate or provide a clean water source.
- Post contact info on hives.
- Notify occupants, landowner, and pesticide applicators about when, where, and how long hives will be on site.

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